

THE REEL NEWS

Volume 22, Issue #4 March 2016
ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
LONDON, CANADA BRANCH
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Submissions for the next newsletter can be sent to
kmaccrone@rogers.com by August 3, 2016

Chairperson's Message

Maureen Graham

I was quite prepared to say now that March has arrived; surely spring is just around the corner. However, as usual, Mother Nature dictates and perhaps later than sooner is the word. So keep warm, drive carefully and be patient, spring will come!

We have had a very busy schedule these past few months with Hogmany, Burn's Night and the Ceilidh/Workshop weekend. The Ceilidh was well attended and the entertainment was outstanding with recognizable local celebrities taking home the coveted Dornock prize. Feedback from the workshop indicates that most had a good time and still prefers the format introduced last year with a tea dance in late afternoon to end the festivities. Kay Munn and Scott Reid were well received and proved to be more than capable instructors. As usual, the food was plentiful and delicious and the Polish Hall as a venue, a delight.



The schedule for the next few months includes the Basic Class dance on April 1st, the Ball at the Great Hall UWO on May 7th and the Annual General Meeting on the 18th of May. More details about these events can be found in this newsletter. If you have never been to the Ball, please consider attending this year. It is our gala event of the year and lots of fun. It is also an opportunity to dress up, enjoy a delicious meal and jig, reel and strathspey to the music of Scotch Mist. A ball practice will be held at Elmwood on April 29th.

There will be **one FREE class on May 11** at Carling Heights and the social classes at Elmwood will continue until May 27.

To ensure that we retain all those hard won dancing steps, Carling Heights is booked for three dance evenings during the summer. The dates are June 15, July 20 and August 17. There will be a small fee of \$5 for each of these evenings.

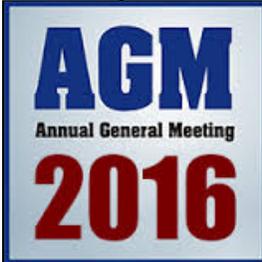
March, in like a LION – hopefully out like a LITTLE LAMB!

“Dance is the hidden language of the soul.” – Martha Graham

Branch News

Notice of AGM

Marg Allan



On May 18, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. we will be meeting at Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre for our annual AGM. We have one proposed change in the Constitution that requires your approval. The Committee of Management recommends that the following line be added to the duties of the Treasurer.

i. A proposed budget for the following year shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

We also plan to approve or vote for some Committee of Management positions, review the duties of the financial and publicity committees and receive the reports from the Committee of Management members as well as address issues facing the Branch. The AGM is your opportunity to influence the future direction of our group. Please be prepared to join us.

News from the Thrift Store

Janet Schreiber

The Thrift Store made a profit of \$360.00 at the workshop on Saturday. I would like to thank Gayle Frisa and Sheilagh Manning for their help. Branch members, this is closet assessing / house cleaning time. If you find anything during your assessing or cleaning that would be suitable for Scottish County Dancing, consider donating it to the Thrift Store. You may bring your donation to either the Wednesday or Friday night classes. Thanks for your support.



Calling All Banners!!!

Peter Auksi

One of the features that makes our annual Spring Ball so colorful and memorable is the number of intriguing clan banners that we hang on the walls of Great Hall. Other groups have a few tiny flags and barely noticeable pennants. But we have around twenty magnificent 8' long, 3' wide banners in wildly technical colour hues to lessen the institutional gravity and wood-paneled solemnity of the Great Hall on the campus of the University of Western Ontario. Our dance group has such a rich treasure trove of banners to display! In order to bedazzle the eyes of out-of-town guests and add to the spectacular optics of the occasion -- or remind ourselves of the glories of hometown London magnificence -- we invite all owners of clan banners to dust them off and bring them in to either the Wednesday or Friday night classes. We plan to hang the banners in Great Hall on Friday, May 6th, the day before our Ball on Saturday the 7th. They are usually returned to their owner right after the Ball (name tags on banners will help in the return). Please help to make us look grand and great!



2016 is the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design in Scotland. Scottish inventions have shaped the modern world. Watch the [video](#) to find out for yourself just how many things have been invented by the Scots. You'll be surprised!

Do **YOU** enjoy Scottish country dancing with our Branch?



Then consider taking a position on the Committee of Management to ensure that the Branch continues to operate - booking venues, publishing the newsletter, organizing and running social events such as the Christmas ball, retaining qualified teachers, and all the procedures that allow the Branch to function and we can all continue to participate in the activity we enjoy.

The following positions are open for election at the AGM in May:

Vice Chair: This is a one year term and allows the incumbent to become familiar with the responsibilities of the Chair position which they will assume for the subsequent two years.

Membership Secretary: the role of the membership secretary is to maintain a record of membership for the purposes of communication within the Branch and RSCDS Headquarters. He/she collects the registration form and fees in conjunction with the treasurer.

Secretary : The secretary records minutes of Branch meetings and corresponds with the RSCDS headquarters and ensures that the Committee of management is apprised of changes and other information from RSCDS. The current secretary is Marg Allan and she is willing to continue but she is also willing to pass the job on to someone else.

Treasurer: The treasurer manages the financial affairs of the Branch. They apprise the Committee of Management of the financial status of the Branch and the affordability of proposed activities. The current treasurer is Goretta Reyen and she is willing to continue but she is also willing to pass the job on to someone else.

Social Convenor: The Social Convenor is responsible for coordinating the refreshments provided at our monthly dances, Hogmanay, Burns Night and the Ceilidh. The current convenor is Lori Ferguson and she is willing to continue but she is also willing to pass the job on to someone else.

Librarian and Archivist: This person is custodian of the archival material belonging to the branch. Brian Campbell is the current Archivist and is willing to continue.

Full job descriptions with outlines of activities for each position are available. It is the role of the Past Chair to recruit a Nomination Committee – one each from the Intermediate and Advanced Class – to seek people willing to allow their names to stand for any of these positions. Janet Schreiber and Marg Boss have agreed to be on this committee and will be approaching people in the coming weeks.

Marel Fielding

Check out this cool Russian [video](#) of two cars mimicking the moves of two figure skaters on an outdoor ice rink. You will be completely amazed!!!!



Burns Night

Bill McLennan

Our Burn's Night social was held on January 23 at the Air Force Association Hall.

Our chair-person, Maureen Graham, gave a short account of Burn's life. The haggis was then "piped" in. It was carried in by Doris Guy who was accompanied by our very own Mary "Queen of Scots" Woods. I recited Burn's "Address to the Haggis" and then the Selkirk Grace. Did you know that, although it is often attributed to Burns, he did not compose it? A version of this grace had been known for some time as The Galloway or the Covenanters' Grace. Burn's used a version of this when asked to say grace at the home of Lord Selkirk in 1794. It has since been known as the Selkirk Grace and is used at Burn's Suppers as well as other Scottish gatherings.



Of course, after the grace, we had a meal for which to be truly thankful-haggis, neaps and tatties as well as a myriad of casseroles, salads and desserts. Thanks to all who contributed to the wonderful meal - the committee members who were responsible for the main dishes and all those who provided the rest.



Once again, Catherine Shaw conducted a raffle of interesting articles and food goods. The raffle has become a regular and much anticipated feature of our monthly socials.

Our dance programme consisted of dances related to Burn's poems such as *The White Cockade* and *Tam O'Shanter* as well as some winter dances - *Cold and Raw* and *The Whistling Wind* to name two. Our music was supplied by Rob Hoffman (on the accordion) and Mary Ashton (on the fiddle) who are new to Scottish Country dancing and its music. They did a great job and hopefully we will see them again soon.



"Surrender to a haunting story of ambition and its dark consequences, as a military hero and his wife conspire to seize the throne of Scotland." Coming to the [Stratford Festival](#) this spring, it will run from May 3rd to October 23rd, 2016. Check out their "Discounts and Deals".

Stratford
FESTIVAL

London Ceilidh Evening

Elfride Rollo

61 people came out to the Byron Legion on Friday, February 26th, including a number of young people and former members of the Branch, to enjoy this fun evening of Ceilidh skits and dancing. M.C. for the evening was our inimitable Marg Boss who did an excellent job keeping us entertained.



The John Angus Dornoch Award for Excellence in Show Business went to the "Byron Ultimate Men's Synchronized Swimmers", the "BUMSS", made up of Alasdair, Brian and Scott. They certainly performed superbly and are definitely ready to be part of the Summer Olympics this year.

Other very worthy competitors for the Award were the Polka dot Cowboys with their "hobby horses" made up of Committee members and a few additional dancers, performing the Cowpoke-a-dot Reel. Marie regaled us with her "Tale of Whoa" leading to the performance.



Marg Boss, read a very funny letter from a cousin in the UK and what it means to be "Royal".

Helen, performing as a CAA representative, was trying to help a lady on the phone, who turned out to be Alison, a desperate driver, whose car had broken down in a town and on a street that made no sense to the representative or to anyone else.



Another funny skit by Kay Munn, one of our guest teachers, was acting the part of a sales lady in a Scottish Sweetie Shop, who at the end had nothing to offer but two "Suckers".

Pat Taylor did an excellent informative routine, playing and explaining a variety of types of bagpipes dating back to the time of Robert Burns.



Kudos go to all the performers and many thanks to the Workshop Chairperson, Marel Fielding, as well as Lesley Craigan and the teachers for providing such an enjoyable evening. The dances between the skits were enjoyed by both young and old. Many thanks go to Lori Ferguson and her helpers for arranging such a great variety of refreshments at the end of the fun evening.

London Workshop & Tea Dance

Janet Szilagy

On Saturday, February 27th, I set out with some trepidation to attend my first ever Scottish Country Dancing workshop. The Polish Combatants Hall is the perfect venue and was beautifully decorated with Scottish dancing dolls on every table and tartan everywhere. I find some people I know and join them at the table.

After an enthusiastic warm up led by one of the instructors, we are divided into two groups; beginners and advanced. I join the beginners group in a smaller room upstairs where someone has again gone to a lot of trouble to decorate the tables with tartan cloths and lovely pictures of Scottish country sides hanging on the walls. Our first instructor was Kay Munn from Kingston and it was a really good experience to learn from someone completely new. As we practiced steps and formations, I noticed things that I am sure I had been told before, but was able to see in a different way when someone else demonstrated them. It was lovely to meet people from other towns and to make new friends.

After an hour and a half of hard work and fun, it was good to take a break and go back downstairs for lunch. I was really hungry and the food did not disappoint. It started with a delicious hot soup and then trays of lasagna, shepherd's pie, vegetarian pasta, fresh salad and crusty rolls.

After lunch, we were back upstairs and hard at it again with another new instructor. This time it was Scott Reid from Hamilton and I again learned a lot. We then went back downstairs for a bit of a break before the Tea Dance started. My head was bursting with all the new things I had learnt and I couldn't wait to see if I could put them into practice at the dance.

People changed into their kilts and fresh clothes to prepare for the dance. It started with the *Flowers of Edinburgh*, which I managed fairly well, as it is one of the few dances I can seem to remember. The live music was exhilarating and it was great fun to watch the enthusiasm with which everyone threw themselves into the dancing, the changing patterns and the speed with which everyone performed the lively steps and complicated formations.



After tea, coffee and sandwiches I left tired, but inspired to persevere and learn more of these stimulating dances. I would like to thank the Committee for their generosity in paying for my attendance at the workshop; I learnt so much, made new friends and had a really good time.



Stunning drone footage captures Scotland's amazing wilderness in this short [video](#) by John Duncan. Taking you across the country to sites like the Highlands and Islands on the west coast and John O'Groats and North Berwick on the east, experience some of the country's most beautiful scenery.

Basic Class Dance Programme

Friday, April 1, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.
 Elmwood Presbyterian Church Hall, 111 Elmwood Avenue East, London

1. Maple Sugar Jig	J-32 R the R	New Brunswick Collection
2. The Dancing Bees*	R-8x32	Roy Goldring 24 G and S Dances
3. The Caterpillar	R-4x32	D. Carr Let's All Dance, Too
4. Waverley (Fergus McIver)	J-8x48	Button and Whitaker RSCDS Book 15
5. Maxwell's Rant	R-8x32	Rutherford RSCDS Book 18
6. The Swans of Atlanta	M-32S/32R Sq Set	C. Shaw
7. The Jubilee Jig*	J-8x32	RSCDS Leaflet Dances 11
8. Catch the Wind	R-8x32	R. Butterfield RSCDS Book 45
9. The Marquis of Lorne	S-8x32	MMM 2
10. Swashbuckling Iain*	J-8x32	C. Hunt San Francisco Collection 2
11. Mrs Macleod (of Raasay)	R-8x32	RSCDS Book 6
12. St. John River	S-4x32	P. Edwards Centennial Collection
13. Flowers of Edinburgh	R-8x32	RSCDS Book 1
14. Tam O'Shanter	R-8x32	P. Barnes Let's All Dance, Too



The briefs for this dance programme as well as those following can be found on the [RSCDS London Canada Branch website](http://www.rscds.ca/).



Don't be a fool and miss this wonderful night. The Basic class has chosen their programme and are busy getting ready for this fun evening of dance. So, get them up on the floor and let them show you just how good they are!

The cost for this dance is \$15 and includes a light lunch. Fred Moyes and his accordion will be providing the live music for this great event.

Dances marked with an * are also on this year's Ball programme.

Dancing Around the World



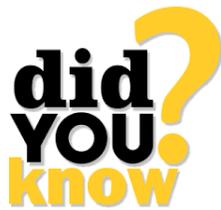
Scottish Dance Week – Prague, Czech Republic June 24-30, 2016

First you will have 5 days in Prague including an intensive dance schedule and some sightseeing. Ron Wallace (from California) will be teaching and Muriel Zobel (Johnstone) will be playing the piano. It will be a great opportunity to learn some new dances, and brush up on old favourites. Afterwards you will have a chance to extend your visit and go on a 3 day sight-seeing tour to southern Bohemia. Check their [website](http://www.scottishdanceweek.com/) for more information.

Spring Ball Programme

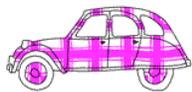
Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
The Great Hall, Somerville House, Western University

1. The Dancing Bees	R-8x32	24 Graded and Social	
2. Swashbuckling Iain	J-6x32	San Francisco Collection 2	
3. MacDonald of the Isles for 5 couples	S-5x32	Montreal Moments	
4. The Australian Ladies	R-8x32	Glasgow Assembly	
5. Pelorus Jack	J-8x32	RSCDS Book 41-7	
6. Wisp of Thistle	S-8x32	RSCDS Book 37-4	
7. The Sailor	R-8x32	RSCDS Book 24-4	
8. The Jubilee Jig	J-8x32	Leaflet 19	
9. Phoenix Rising	S-4x32	Coast to Coast	
10. The Ruby Rant	R-8x32	RSCDS Book 49-6	
11. The Bees of Maggiecknockater	J-4x32	Canadian Book	
12. The Gentleman	S-8x32	RSCDS Book 35-5	
13. The Royal Deeside Railway	R-8x32	RSCDS Book 40-9	
14. Cranberry Tart	J-8x32	7 Year Itch	
15. MacDonald of Keppoch	M-2x32S+2x32R	RSCDS Book 49-11	
16. The Hollin Buss	J-6x32	RSCDS Book 24-8	
17. The Irish Rover	R-8x32	Cosh	



There will be a Ball Practice at Elmwood Presbyterian Church on Friday, April 29th, 2016 at 7:30 pm. **This practice is open to everyone attending the Ball.**

The cost of a ticket for this year's Ball is \$65 for dancers and \$40 for non-dancers. A Brunch on Sunday (May 8th) is being hosted by Marie and Bill McLennan at their home. There is an additional cost of \$10 per person, but it is limited to 35 guests so get your registration in early. The Ball flyer can be found on our [website](#).



Ball Parking - Parking is in the Weldon Library lot off the Alumni Hall traffic circle. There will most likely be an attendant in the booth. Just let him/her know that you are going to the Great Hall and you will not be charged.

The Story Behind a Dance

[THE BEES OF MAGGIEKNOCKATER](#) (J4x32) 4C set John Drewry Canadian Bk

Maggiacknockater (*Magh an Fhucadair* in Scottish Gaelic) is a hamlet on the A95 road between Craigellachie and Mulben in Scotland.

Until the early 1970's there was a large apiary located there, but it still lives on in the Scottish country dance "The Bees of Maggiacknockater" by John Drewry. The meaning of Maggiacknockater is "field of the fuller" or "plain of the hilly ridge". Maggiacknockater is situated less than 4 miles from Dufftown, home of the world-famous Glenfiddich Distillery. (*Wikipedia*)





Dear Miss Millie Ganz,
I am new to Scottish Country Dancing and am looking forward to going to my first Ball. Could you please go over Ball Etiquette so I can feel more prepared for the big event?
Cinderella

Dear Cinderella,
I would be delighted! This is not just for newcomers to Scottish Country Dancing as everyone could benefit from a refresher course on this topic. Here is my list in no particular order.

- Form sets after the dance is announced or the band has played the introductory music.
- Always join sets at the end of the line.
- Always walk around the line of dance.
- It is anticipated that the gentleman will escort his partner on and off the dance floor.
- In her partner's temporary absence, the lady stands in his place in the set to hold it while the set is being counted.
- Stay in your set once positions have been established.
- Listen quietly during briefings. Resist the temptation to explain the dance to others while the brief is given.
- Cover (line up with) the first couple when forming sets.
- Be sociable and dance with different partners during the evening.
- Be alert while a dance is in progress and be ready to enter the dance and to step up or down when required.
- Be gentle in your handling with other dancers. You don't want to hurt your (or anyone else's) arms or shoulders.
- Ladies should wear skirts or dresses
- Gentlemen should wear a kilt or long pants.
- Be polite. Thank your partner and the other members of your set at the end of each dance.
- You dance because you enjoy it. Let it show! Maintain eye contact with your partner and the other dancers, and smile!
- Be friendly. Criticism of others can cause hurt feelings and disturb the positive social feeling of the dance.
- Take responsibility for **NOT** getting into a set for a complicated dance you don't know.
- When you are partnering someone you don't know, introduce yourself, even if you are wearing a name tag.
- Beginners should resist dancing with other beginners. They will learn more from dancing with more experienced dancers.
- Take the initiative. Anyone may ask anyone else to dance, so don't wait to be asked. The worst that may happen is they say no. Then ask someone else!
- It is best not to line up partners too far in advance.
- Please do not read "cheat sheets" on the dance floor; at this point you should be listening to the briefing.

Miss Millie Ganz (*excerpt from Buffalo Branch Handbook*)

If you have a question for Miss Millie Ganz, just send it to kmacrone@rogers.com and I'll be sure to forward it on to her.

Upcoming Out of Town Events

Apr 2, 2016	John Middleton Ball (Hamilton)
Apr 2, 2016	31st Annual West End Workshop (Brampton)
Apr 2, 2016	Border Cities Workshop (Windsor)
Apr 9, 2016	Sarnia Spring Dance – contact John barfeld@hotmail.com
Apr 9, 2016	Back to Basics Workshop & Tea Dance (St. Catharines)
Apr 16, 2016	RSCDS Ottawa Golden Anniversary Ball
Apr 22-24, 2016	Tartan Tea Weekend/Workshop and Tea Dance (Picton)
May 14, 2016	West Toronto Ball
May 15, 2016	Tartan and Thistle Scottish Ball (Ann Arbor MI)
May 20-22, 2016	Pawling Weekend (Hopewell Junction NY)
May 27-29, 2016	Dance Weekend at Stoney Lake
May 28, 2016	60th Anniversary Celebration (Oakville)
June 4, 2016	Ailsa Craig Spring Fling – contact Marie marwil@sympatico.ca
June 11, 2016	Kitchener Waterloo Ball
Aug 15-19, 2016	Scotch on the Rocks (Wolfville NS)
Nov 4-6, 2016	50th Anniversary Workshop and Ball Weekend (Kingston)



The RSCDS London Ontario Branch is offering 3 nights of dance (June 15th, July 20th and August 17th) over the course of the summer. They will be held at Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre at 7:30 pm in the Aerobics room. Cost is \$5.

The Ailsa Craig dance group is planning on offering 2 chances to dance this summer – one in July and one in August at Ye Olde Towne Hall on Main Street. Dates are yet to be firmed up.

Scottish Country dance on Friday, June 10th, at 7:30 pm at **Colborne Street United Church** for \$10 each. Contact Helen Bell for more information.

Helen Bell will be offering Ceilidh dancing on Saturday, May 14th, at 2 pm at **Colborne Street United Church** for \$5. Age 8 years and over. No previous knowledge required.

Committee of Management for 2015-2016

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